

September 22, 1960

Dr. Edwin M. Foster  
Department of Bacteriology  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Mike:

Bob Hungate has written to me concerning the intended nomination of Gerry Merr for the Lilly Award, a proposal that I would be happy to join in. I am sure you will receive ample comment concerning Merr's published contributions, to which you could doubtless add a good deal from your own experience. At Bob's suggestion, I do want to add a word concerning Gerry's activities on the Exobiology Committee of the Space Science Board. Since this was organized Gerry has been one of the most contributory members furnishing many imaginative ideas, cool judgments, and constructive criticisms. He had a great deal to do with putting us on the right track for the management of the spacecraft decontamination program.

I would not suggest that this activity should be given a great deal of weight in your consideration of his nomination nor would it have represented a great deal of his time. But it is a point that you should be aware of.

Yours cordially,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

JL/Jh

bcc: Dr. Hungate: Dear Bob: This should answer your letter of the 19th.

Has Gerry brought to you my urgent inquiry for a soil microbiologist who is well trained in fundamentals and might be interested in joining us here for a crash program on instrumentation for a planetary landing experiment? I'm mainly looking for someone who knows what various soils should and do look like under the microscope, can interpret what he sees, and can think of additional instrumentation for the analysis.

MARR, A.G.